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28 January 1954

Copy No. 04

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 35
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: DEC 1979 REVIEWER:

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~**SUMMARY****GENERAL**

1. [REDACTED]
2. East German exports to Peiping lagging badly (page 3).
3. USSR reportedly renews UN support of Syria on dispute with Israel (page 4).

FAR EAST

4. Japanese agitation for release of war criminals strains relations with US (page 4).
5. Rhee planning ambitious anti-Communist program (page 5).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. Soviet-inspired Kurdish rebellion allegedly planned for Iran (page 5).
7. Britain sending armored squadron to Jordan (page 6).
8. [REDACTED]

WESTERN EUROPE

9. French government reportedly sees need to educate public and parliament on Indochina (page 7).
10. Embassy comments on possibility of widespread strikes in France (page 8).
11. USSR allegedly sounds out France on Indian mediation in Indochina (page 8).

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~~TOP SECRET~~

28 Jan 54

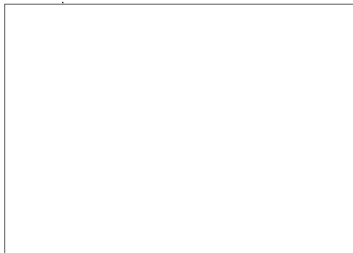
~~TOP SECRET~~

GENERAL

1.



2. East German exports to Peiping lagging badly:



25 locomotives, 1,060 trucks, 10 motor trolleys and truck parts contracted for 1953 were overdue as of 4 January and were urgently needed. Delivery in the first quarter of 1954 was requested.

Comment: The delay in the delivery of this substantial volume of goods indicates that the plan announced on 30 April in Peiping to increase Sino-German trade by 34 percent in 1953 over 1952 was not fulfilled.

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

[] Peiping complained to four Eastern European Satellites, including East Germany, about lagging deliveries. If the others also failed to meet their schedules by the end of the year, China's over-all imports may have lagged, to the detriment of its industrial production and construction plans. The USSR was also behind in deliveries to Communist China []

[]

3. USSR reportedly renews UN support of Syria on dispute with Israel:

[] According to the Syrian foreign minister, Syrian ambassador Zain al Din in Washington has received assurances that the USSR will accept any UN resolution approved by Syria on the disputed Israeli canal near the Jordan River.

Comment: This Soviet support of Syria is the eighth instance in the past year indicating Syrian-Soviet cooperation on UN matters. []

[]

On 22 January Vyshinsky cast the veto, which he had apparently promised Zain al Din, on the Western proposal for settling the Israeli-Syrian dispute. This vote has increased Soviet popularity in Syria and may complicate current Syrian-American economic aid negotiations. []

FAR EAST

4. Japanese agitation for release of war criminals strains relations with US:

[] Continuing agitation for the release of lesser Japanese war criminals convicted by American military courts is a serious irritant to United States relations with Japan, according to Ambassador Allison. The recent Philippine and Formosan amnesties have accentuated the issue.

- 4 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

Allison notes that Prime Minister Yoshida has publicly promised to seek the prisoners' release and that the re-opening of the Diet will bring widespread public clamor directed at the United States for speedy action.

Comment: The Japanese government desires to have these war criminal cases, which number 323, considered from a political rather than a judicial viewpoint.

5. Rhee planning ambitious anti-Communist program:

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Rhee intends to call a conference in March of all Southeast Asian countries looking toward an anti-Communist alliance. He has been told that the Philippines and Thailand are ready to support such a pact.

Comment: Rhee has apparently been misinformed about the response to his proposed pact, since the Southeast Asian countries have shown little enthusiasm for it or willingness to accept Rhee as their spokesman.

Rhee is negotiating with American aid officials and independently with American firms for powerful transmitters capable of broadcasting to the entire Far East.

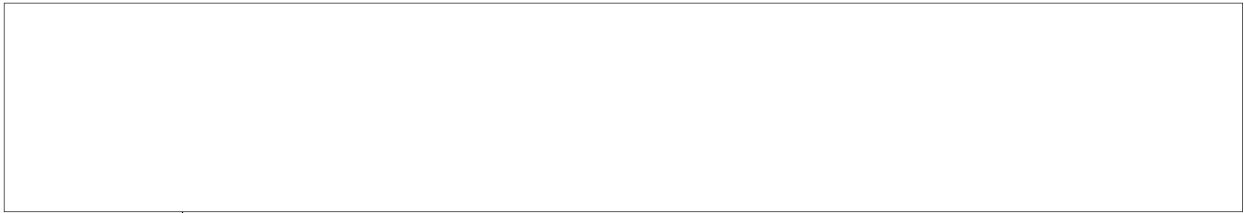
NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. Soviet-inspired Kurdish rebellion allegedly planned for Iran:

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~~TOP SECRET~~

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: Rumors of Kurdish revolts are revived annually in Iranian Azerbaijan. [redacted] small groups of Barzani Kurds, who fled to the Soviet Union in 1947, had re-entered Iran seeking the support of Iranian Kurds. There is no indication, however, that a widespread revolt is planned.

Isolated disturbances resulting from Soviet or Tudeh-inspired agitation against the Zahedi government may occur, but participation by Soviet troops is extremely unlikely.

7. Britain sending armored squadron to Jordan:



In response to a Jordanian request for assistance under the Anglo-Jordanian treaty, Britain is moving one armored squadron from the Suez area to supplement its small garrison at Aqaba. The squadron, consisting of about 20 tanks and 100 men, will engage in training exercises with the Arab Legion.

No publicity is being given the move, but the Foreign Office expects a sharp protest from Israel, which has been informed.

Comment: Britain had anticipated a Jordanian request for assistance, and as early as October 1953 was prepared to commit a brigade from the Suez Canal zone.

About 400 British troops have been stationed at Aqaba since 1949. A British jet squadron is based at Amman.

- 6 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

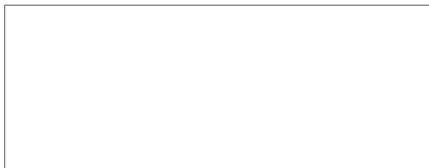
28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

8.

WESTERN EUROPE

9. French government reportedly sees need to educate public and parliament on Indochina:



Secretary for the Associated States Jacquet's executive secretary admitted to the American consulate in Hanoi on 25 January that the French government has to hold out the pros-

pect of an early end to the Indochina burden to gain any public acceptance of its policy. He stated that "no member of the present French government" has any illusions as to the possibility of negotiating a satisfactory peace with the Viet Minh, but that responsible ministers fear the government may have "to eat its words" unless it can educate the public, press, and parliament on the "realities of France's position" in Indochina.

Comment: Many responsible and informed politicians who agree that negotiations with the Viet Minh would probably be fruitless nevertheless advocate other nonmilitary solutions such as five-power talks. Military victories giving some hope for a successful conclusion of the Indochina war would put off growing pressure for an early solution.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

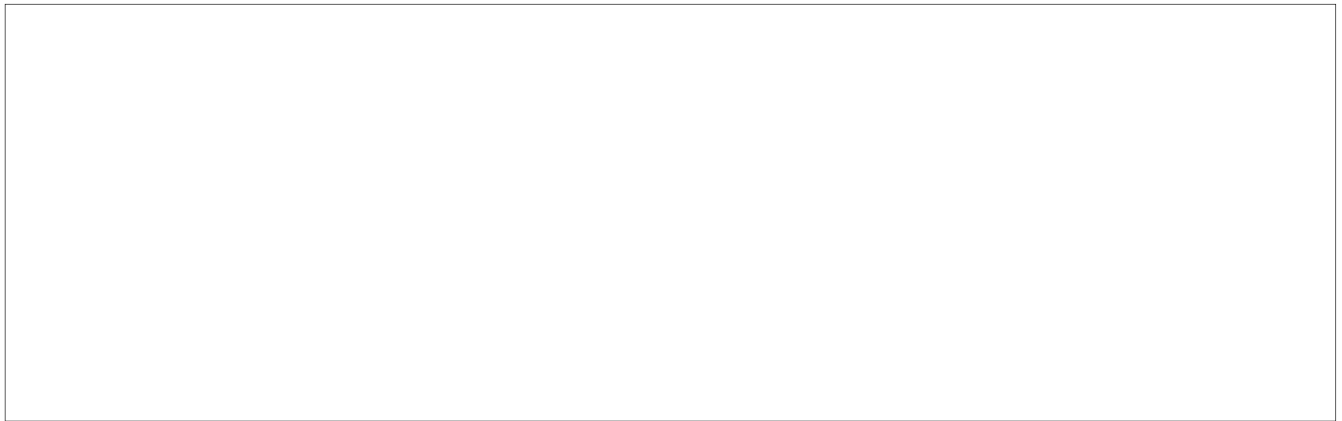
10. Embassy comments on possibility of widespread strikes in France:



The American embassy in Paris believes that the 24-hour labor demonstrations planned for 29 January by both the Communist and non-Communist unions could lead rapidly to a new political and social crisis in France if the rank and file shows a desire for nationwide strike activity. Although the planned demonstrations are not expected to develop into a widespread strike, the embassy states that they could strengthen the Communist united-action campaign and improve prospects for more extensive action later.

The embassy believes that a widespread strike might get out of the control of the national labor confederations and lead to a showdown with the government. This estimate is based on the new sense of relative autonomy developed by the bulk of local unity-of-action committees, and the new Communist labor tactic of remaining in the background.

11. USSR allegedly sounds out France on Indian mediation in Indochina:



Indian mediation is aimed at weakening the "pan-Asiatic tendencies" of Mao Tse-tung, and Moscow hopes thereby to gain full control of Communist strategy in Asia.

- 8 -

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: It is unlikely that the Soviet Union, with the Berlin conference pending, would have suggested terms of settlement tantamount to French capitulation in Indochina.

Although the strong Chinese Communist position poses a possible long-range threat to Soviet control of the Asian Communist movement, there is no evidence of a current Sino-Soviet conflict over either the direction or the organization of the movement.

- 9 -

28 Jan 54

~~TOP SECRET~~